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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7405

BILL NUMBER: HB 1438

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 6, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Continuing Education Fund for Health Departments.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Brown T

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a local health department to increase fees for birth and death certificates by \$1 to be deposited in a continuing education fund for local health department personnel. The bill creates the Continuing Education Fund for Local Health Department Personnel. It also appropriates money in the Fund to the Indiana Public Health Foundation, Inc., to administer a continuing education program. The bill also requires the Indiana Public Health Foundation, Inc., to create a continuing education committee.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Continuing Education Fund for Local Health Department Personnel is to be administered by the Treasurer of State. The Treasurer will distribute all funds collected to the not-for-profit Indiana Public Health Foundation, Inc.

Background: The Indiana Public Health Foundation (IPHF) was founded in 1964 as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. The IPHF reports that it is dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of the individual through education, research, and resource management. It emphasizes the need for prevention and intervention services designed to enable individuals to understand and overcome challenges to assist them with changing their lifestyles through education.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Once sufficient fees have been collected to provide funding for each participating local health department, the departments may seek reimbursement for training activities for public

health personnel. The Indiana Public Health Foundation shall, through the establishment of a 16-member continuing education committee establish guidelines for distributing funds back to local health departments. Participating local health departments are required to submit in an electronic format quarterly financial reports concerning continuing education to the Foundation. It is not known if this requirement would impose additional costs on the local health departments.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Continuing Education Fund for Local Health Department Personnel:* This bill establishes a new local fee from which revenue will be transferred to the Treasurer of State for distribution to the Indiana Public Health Foundation, Inc. The bill requires local health departments that charge a fee for a certificate of birth, death, or stillbirth, to add an additional \$1 fee to the local fee. (All county health departments in Indiana charge fees for these certificates.) The county auditor is semiannually required to transfer these funds to the Treasurer of State.

Death Certificate Fees - The bill would add an additional \$1 fee to the rate charged for the issuance of a death certificate. This fee is to be collected in the same manner as the current \$1 fee for coroners continuing education. The Coroner's Training Board has averaged \$366,450 in revenue from the fee over the past five years. It is estimated that the additional \$1 fee will generate the same amount of revenue for the Continuing Education Fund for Local Health Department Personnel.

Birth Certificate Fees: The bill would add a \$1 fee to the rate charged for the issuance of a birth certificate or a certificate of stillbirth by a local health department. There currently is no additional fee revenue attached to the issuance of birth certificates or certificates of stillbirth. Consequently, the amount of revenue that may be collected cannot be estimated; the number of birth certificates issued by local departments is not known. However, approximately 84,000 births are reported in Indiana each year. The number of additional copies of birth certificates and certificates of stillbirth that may be requested and issued is unknown.

State Agencies Affected: Treasurer of State.

Local Agencies Affected: Local health departments; Local auditors.

Information Sources: Auditor's Data Base; Indiana State Department of Health web site at: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/bdcertifs/lhdfees/toc.htm>.

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